REMARKS

In the earlier Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that for purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment to the specification in the earlier response after final will be entered. However, in a further telephonic discussion with the Examiner, he indicated that the proposed amendment to the specification raises new matter issue. Applicant disagrees.

The present filing is responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Final Office Action.

Summary of the Response

The specification has been amended. No claims have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 have been previously canceled. Claims 1, 4-8 and 11-21 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention is directed to an electronic device incorporating a dual-display panel module that shares a driver by operatively coupling the driver to a common connection between two displays. The dual-display panel module includes a primary-display panel module and a secondary-display panel module. In one embodiment, the connector **electrically connects** to the respective ends of the primary and secondary display panels. Via this electrical connection, electrical traces are supported, which are electrically coupled to the outputs of the driver. The common driver facilitates control of both primary and secondary display panels. In one embodiment, **the connector is a flexible printed circuit board (FPCB)**.

Applicant notes that as is well understood in the art, a **FPCB is a passive electrical circuit or traces** formed and supported (i.e., "printed") on a non-conductive flexible substrate. The FPCB is used to mechanically support and electrically connect active components, such as the driver. In the disclosed embodiment, the driver is an ASIC formed on the FPCB connector by a chip-on-flex (COF) method.

The connector, in the form of a flexible printed circuit board, in and by itself inherently does not have any switches within the flexible printed circuit board, such that the flexible printed circuit board is independent of any switches, as shown in the embodiment of FIG 4.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112

Claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The specification has been earlier amended to include recitation of the limitation "the connector is independent of any switches". This does not add any new matter to the specification. As is **inherent**, and further plainly seen in the embodiment of FIG. 4, for example, the connector can be a flexible printed circuit board, which is independent of any switches. Applicant currently proposes to amend the specification at page 9 to recite: "The connector can be substantially flexible, such as a FPCB (flexible printed circuit board) 362, which in and by itself inherently does not have any switches within the flexible printed circuit board, such that the flexible printed circuit board is independent of any switches, as shown in the embodiment of FIG 4." The inherent nature of a FPCB does not include switches. It is a dump circuit with traces supported on a substrate. Applicant's specification as originally filed contained an enabling

disclosure of an FPCB. It follows that Applicant's proposed amendment herein **does nothing more than provide language that is inherently supported by the original specification.**

Applicant notes that **not all the independent claims rely on the recitation of "independent of any switches"**, as discussed below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Toba (USPN 6907276). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant incorporates by reference all arguments presented in the earlier response after final. Such arguments would not be repeated in the present response, except where appropriate to re-emphasize the distinguishing structures of the claimed invention.

Claim 15 specifically requires "a connector **electrically coupling** the primary display module and the secondary display module". Referring to Fig. 7 in Toba, the Toba circuit does not provide electrical coupling between two display modules. Instead, the circuit in Toba selectively directs driver signals alternately to the two displays 5 and 11. Switches 27 and 28 are used to selectively provide driver input to one of the display units 5 and 11. These switches 27 and 28 are therefore **for isolation between two display channels**. As such, the two display units 5 and 11 cannot be electrically coupled to each other in the presence of the isolation switches 27 and 28. Therefore, the structure of the Toba circuit would not anticipate claim 15.

Claim 15 further requires "the connector is **independent of any switches**." In the disclosed embodiment, the connector, which can be a flexible printed circuit board or FPCB, is without any switches.

Even if the recitation "independent of any switches" is deemed to be new matter not supported by the original specification, Toba still does not anticipate claim 15 because it does not disclose electrically coupling of two displays.

Claim 15 and all the claims dependent therefrom are therefore not anticipated by Toba.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Independent claims 1 and 8 do not recite "independent of any switches". Therefore, there is **no new matter issue**.

Independent claims 1 and 8 recite "a connector **electrically connecting** the primary display module and secondary display module, wherein the connector is **a flexible printed circuit board**". As noted above, Toba does not teach **electrically connecting** the primary and secondary display modules 5 and 11.

Further, Toba does not teach specifically using a **flexible printed circuit board** to **electrically connect** a primary display module and a secondary display module. The Examiner earlier conceded to such deficiency in Toba. In fact, the Examiner specifically stated that Toba does not teach the connector is a flexible printed circuit board. (See, page 7 in the Office Action.)

Aoki however does not make up for the deficiencies of Toba. Aoki likewise does not teach the use of a flexible printed circuit board to electrically connect a primary display module and a secondary display module. Aoki merely discloses that a flexible printed circuit board may be connected to a side of a liquid crystal display panel, **but not electrically interconnecting two displays**. Consequently, even if Aoki can somehow be combined with Toba, such combination would not obtain the present invention as defined in previously presented independent claims 1 and 8.

Accordingly, even without specific reference to "independent of switches" for the recited connector in claims 1 and 8 (specifically FPCB connector recited in claim 1), given a reasonable construction of the recited connector in the context of the present invention (i.e., **connector interconnecting two displays**), these claims are not rendered obvious by Toba and Aoki. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner erred by construing the claims out of context of the specification.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 501288** referencing the attorney docket number of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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